

## Message Text

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DISTO

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL 8/21/75

TAGS: PARM, CCD, US

SUBJECT: CCD: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING DRAFT ENMOD  
CONVENTION

FOLLOWING CLEARED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS MAY BE DRAWN ON BY  
US REP IN PRESS MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC COMMENT  
FOLLOWING TABLING OF US DRAFT ENMOD CONVENTION AT CCD  
AUGUST 21. -

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1. Q - WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE?

A - ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE INVOLVES MILITARY OR ANY OTHER HOSTILE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES, I.E., TECHNIQUES FOR DELIBERATELY MANIPULATING NATURAL PROCESSES, AS A MEANS OF DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE OR INJURY.

2. Q - WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE?

A - ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION IS A GENERAL TERM FOR CHANGING THE DYNAMICS, COMPOSITION OR STRUCTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION COULD, OF COURSE, BE CARRIED OUT EITHER FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OR FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES. THUS, ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE INVOLVES THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES.

3. Q - WHAT MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES ARE FEASIBLE NOW?

A - AT PRESENT, USE OF WEATHER MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES DOES NOT PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MILITARY PLANNING. DISPERSAL OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FOG AT AIRFIELDS IS THE ONLY TECHNIQUE WHICH IS REALLY PRACTICAL AND THIS, OF COURSE, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE CATEGORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE. HOWEVER, ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES APPEAR TO BE ENTERING A PERIOD OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT, AND ADVANCES WHICH WOULD POSE SERIOUS DANGERS MAY WELL OCCUR UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN NOW.

4. Q - THE US-SOVIET DRAFT TREATY SEEMS TO PROHIBIT ONLY THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO DO. ISN'T IT JUST A COSMETIC PROPOSAL?

A - NOT AT ALL. WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE IS NOT PRACTICAL ON A MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT SCALE AT PRESENT, SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES MAY BE POSSIBLE IN TIME. AT PRESENT THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PREVENT THE CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES WHICH MIGHT FOLLOW. WE SHOULD SEIZE THAT OPPORTUNITY.

5. Q - IN WARFARE THE ENVIRONMENT MIGHT BE SERIOUSLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFECTED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. THIS DRAFT TREATY ONLY DEALS WITH ONE OF THEM. WOULDN'T IT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A SINGLE TREATY TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM ALL TYPES OF DAMAGE IN WARFARE?

A - THERE CLEARLY ARE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE AS SUCH WHICH CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANI-

TARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT IS ALREADY CONSIDERING RESTRICTIONS ON CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF WARFARE CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THUS, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THIS DRAFT TREATY TO DEAL WITH THE ENTIRE BROAD AREA. RATHER, IN CONSIDERING THE DRAFT THE CCD SHOULD FOCUS ON PREVENTING THE EMERGENCE OF THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE EXPLOITATION FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES.

6. Q - HOW WOULD THE TREATY AFFECT PEACEFUL USES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES?

A - ARTICLE III PROVIDES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION SHALL NOT HINDER THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WE MUST TAKE CARE THAT WE DO NOT INHIBIT PEACEFUL ACTIVITIES IN THE PROCESS OF PLACING LIMITATIONS ON HOSTILE USES.

7. Q - THE DRAFT TREATY DEALS ONLY WITH MILITARY USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES. WHY SHOULDN'T MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA BE PROHIBITED AS WELL?

A - IT DOES NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN R&D ACTIVITIES INTENDED FOR PEACEFUL AND FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES. AS I INDICATED, WE MUST TAKE CARE THAT WE DO NOT INHIBIT THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NECESSARY AND PROPER FOR THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNIQUES TO MODIFY THE ENVIRONMENT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

8. Q - IN THE DRAFT CONVENTION, WHAT DO THE WORDS "MILITARY OR ANY OTHER HOSTILE USE" MEAN?

A - THESE WORDS REFER TO ANY USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFIED OFFICIAL USE

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FICATION TECHNIQUES AS A MEANS OF DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE OR INJURY TO ANOTHER STATE PARTY. THEY ARE INTENDED TO MAKE THE CONVENTION APPLY NOT ONLY TO CASES IN WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES ARE USED ALONG WITH OTHER WEAPONS IN WAR, BUT ALSO TO INSTANCES IN WHICH HOSTILE ACTION MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT BY MEANS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION WITHOUT OTHER FORMS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS.

9. Q - WHY DOES THE TREATY ONLY RESTRICT USE OF THOSE TECHNIQUES HAVING "WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE" EFFECTS? SHOULDN'T ALL HOSTILE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES BE PROHIBITED?

A - THE MAIN CONCERN IN THIS AREA IS THAT TECHNIQUES MAY COME TO BE DEVELOPED WHICH WILL HAVE CATASTROPHIC CON-

SEQUENCES. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THE PRIMARY NEED IS FOR LIMITATIONS ON THE HOSTILE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES THAT PRODUCE WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE EFFECTS.

10. Q - IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WHAT DO THE WORDS "WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING, OR SEVERE" MEAN?

A - THIS PHRASE SERVES TO SPECIFY IN A GENERAL WAY THE TYPES OF EFFECTS WHICH WOULD POSE A SERIOUS DANGER TO HUMAN WELFARE. I AM SURE APPLICATION OF THESE CRITERIA TO CONCRETE SITUATIONS WILL BE CLARIFIED BY THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. I WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT EFFECTS WHICH WERE IMPOSED ON AN AREA OF THOUSANDS OF SQUARE KILOMETERS, OR WHICH PERSISTED FOR PERIODS OF MONTHS, OR MORE THAN ONE SEASON, RATHER THAN WEEKS ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS PHRASE. ALSO INCLUDED ARE EFFECTS WHICH RESULT IN VERY

SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF THE EXISTING STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT OR VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE OR INJURY TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY.

11. Q - WOULD THE US ATTEMPTS AT RAIN-MAKING DURING THE VIETNAM WAR HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED BY THIS TREATY?

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A - THE PROPOSED TREATY WOULD, OF COURSE, GOVERN ONLY THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. THERE IS LITTLE VALUE IN SPECULATING ABOUT ACTIVITIES WHICH TOOK PLACE YEARS BEFORE THE TREATY WAS DRAFTED. AS FAR AS FUTURE ACTIVITIES ARE CONCERNED, THE TREATY WOULD PROHIBIT ANY ATTEMPT TO USE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING RAIN-MAKING, TO PRODUCE WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE EFFECTS.

12. Q - IS USE OF HERBICIDES, SUCH AS THAT PRACTICED BY THE US IN VIETNAM, INCLUDED AMONG THE TECHNIQUES WHICH WOULD BE PROHIBITED?

A - THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY WOULD PROHIBIT THE USE OF HERBICIDES AS A MEANS OF DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, OR INJURY IF THE EFFECTS WERE WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE. THE TREATY WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, AFFECT USE OF HERBICIDES FOR CONTROL OF VEGETATION WITHIN MILITARY BASES AND INSTALLATIONS O@

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